

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSR-01 /153 W

----- 054552

R 251020Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6424

INFO AMCONSUL DANANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS, VN

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FISHERMAN

REF: SAIGON 15006

1. REPATRIATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FISHERMAN, LE HANG, TO NVN VIA AUGUST 24 SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. ALTHOUGH CONGEN DA NANG REPORTED AN ABC CORRESPONDENT TAPED A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH LE HANG AT DA NANG AIRPORT AUGUST 23, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF PRESS INTEREST HERE IN SAIGON. (GVN OFFICIALS DID TAKE ONE PHOTO OF LE HANG AS HE WAITED ABOARD C-130 FOR FLIGHT TO BEGIN.)

2. NORTH VIETNAMESE RECEPTION AT GIA LAM AIRPORT WAS WITHOUT CEREMONY. USDEL STAFF WHO ACCOMPANIED FLIGHT AND DISEMBARKED FIRST AT GIA LAM WERE INFORMED THAT FOLLOWING THE DISEMBARKATION OF ALL OTHER PASSENGERS, LE HANG WOULD DISEMBARK AND WOULD BE CARED FOR BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. DRV FPJMT REPS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING HIS RETURN TO NVN IN RESTRAINED, BUSINESSLIKE MANNER.

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3. COMMENT: DESPITE QUIET RECEPTION OF LE HANG AT GIA LAM
AIRPORT, DRV COULD LATER EXPLOIT HIS APPARENT
PREFERENCE FOR LIVING IN NORTH VIET-NAM. ON WAY TO HANOI
HE TOLD USDEL REP THAT LIVING CONDITION WERE BETTER IN NVN
THAN IN SVN SINCE PRICES IN NVN WERE STABLE AND RICE WAS CHEAP.
HE HAS ALSO COMPLAINED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT HIS 60
PIASTER PER DAY FOOD ALLOWANCE WHILE IN DA NANG HOME FOR THE
AGED WAS INSUFFICIENT.
MARTIN

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NNN

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